



PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION 2025

LEADING THE WAY HOME



DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place

SUMMARY

More than 16,000 people are experiencing homelessness in Ireland, including more than 5,000 children - figures we never thought imaginable as a society. Depaul, as one of the largest providers of homeless services on the island of Ireland, providing 42 specialised services, is only too familiar with the hardship faced by this vulnerable cohort of people. Throughout 2025 we have seen month-on-month increases in homelessness, with more and more people experiencing the intense trauma and hardship of living in temporary accommodation services around Ireland.

Budget 2025 is critically important to the lives of those supported in the homeless system in Ireland - now is the time to see a real commitment to change.

DEPAUL'S ASKS FOR BUDGET 2025 INCLUDE:

1. Housing - prioritise increasing funding for **Public and Affordable Housing** and fund a state-led plan to reverse the **over-reliance on temporary accommodation**.
2. Increase funding for **homelessness services** focusing on addiction, drug and alcohol interventions and mental health – with more focus on harm-reduction measures.
3. Increase funding and provide more solutions to the **critical situation in International Protection and Direct Provision**.
4. Provide adequate and sustainable **funding for staff** in the voluntary and social sector.
5. Provide multi-annual funding to the homeless sector that reflects the **full cost of service delivery**.



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DEPAUL'S KEY PRIORITY AREAS

1. HOUSING – PRIORITISE INCREASING FUNDING FOR PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND A STATE-LED PLAN TO REVERSE THE OVER-RELIANCE ON TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

- A renewed strategic focus for single people accommodation.
- A review of CAS and CALF funding - including access to increased budget being made available to Local Authorities - who are currently not adequately funded in order to have in place adequate sinking funds to provide accommodation for more complex households.
- Continued investment in Housing-First initiatives and housing to ensure most complex service users can live independently.
- An increase in budget to fund public and affordable housing supply to reverse the current over-reliance on temporary accommodation.
- Consideration given to the effect the expansion of RPZs will have on already struggling families and individuals in the rental sector with a specific focus on Housing Assistance Payments.
- To provide a national three-year plan for the reduction of Private Emergency Accommodation as a major source of temporary accommodation.

2. FUNDING FOR HOMELESSNESS SERVICES FOCUSING ON ADDICTION, DRUG AND ALCOHOL INTERVENTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH – WITH MORE FOCUS ON HARM-REDUCTION MEASURES

- Significant increase in health budget particularly related to social inclusion to support homeless people with mental health, physical health, addiction, and homecare needs.
- Increased budget made available to hospitals to roll out Inclusion Health models of service.
- Increased budget for harm reduction interventions for people with addictions - such as medically supervised injection centres, and consumption rooms in areas outside of Dublin.



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DEPAUL'S KEY PRIORITY AREAS

3. INCREASE FUNDING AND PROVIDE MORE SOLUTIONS TO THE CRITICAL SITUATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND DIRECT PROVISION

- A fundamental cross departmental review of how housing will be delivered for people with permission to remain in Ireland with an increase in funding towards adequate services and housing for those in IP and the establishment of a tenancy sustainment service for those who have moved on from DP to support the prevention of homelessness.
- A recognition that tented accommodation is not an adequate response and funding to find a solution to avoid the use of this type of accommodation.
- Increase in budget for state departments to train and educate local authority staff engaging with those coming through the IP system in particular in relation to understanding permissions, rights and stamps.

4. PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STAFF IN THE VOLUNTARY AND SOCIAL SECTOR

- Adhering to the recent WRC national pay agreement regarding section 10, 39, 56 - we are asking for implementation, adequate funding and resourcing - while also taking into account future alignment with public pay sector agreements. We are also seeking a commitment that services delivering essential public services that are not covered by the agreement are recognised.

5. AGREEMENT AROUND FULL COST OF SERVICE DELIVERY FOR HOMELESS ORGANISATIONS

- As part of the WRC process provide multi-annual funding to the homeless sector that reflects the full cost of service delivery.
- CCMA Section 10 review recommendations - to be funded and fully implemented with the HSE fully reviewing its role in the funding of homeless services.



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1. HOUSING

PRIORITISE INCREASING FUNDING FOR PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND A STATE-LED PLAN TO REVERSE THE OVER-RELIANCE ON TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The lack of housing is identified as the greatest barrier for people trying to exit homelessness. Depaul remains incredibly concerned that the lack of housing options continues to exacerbate homelessness in 2025. The escalating homelessness crisis is driven by a severe lack of affordable housing and an over-reliance on temporary solutions. The housing market is not working for those most vulnerable, and the gap between supply and demand is only widening.

Depaul supports a housing-led approach. We need a budget commitment to increase public and affordable housing supply in the right places and right configuration that meets local needs, including housing-first tenancies. The State must increase its role and investment. The Government must put in place robust plans, prioritising the desperate need of those most vulnerable.

OUR BUDGET 2025 ASKS:

- Increase in funding for single people accommodation - currently not fit for purpose.
- Provision of a specific budget to support AHBs to have in place adequate sinking funds to provide accommodation for more complex individuals.
- A review of CAS and CALF funding - including access to increased budget being made available to Local Authorities - who are currently not adequately funded.
- Continued investment in Housing-First initiatives and housing to ensure most complex service users can live independently.
- Allocate funding for a Housing-First for Families programme.
- An increase in budget allocation to increase public and affordable housing supply to reverse the current over-reliance on temporary accommodation and a national plan to tackle this that prioritises those households that are longest in temporary accommodation for any new social housing.
- Provide a three-year plan for the reduction of Private Emergency Accommodation as a major source of temporary accommodation.
- Consideration given to the effect the expansion of RPZs will have on already struggling families and individuals in the rental sector with a specific focus on Housing Assistance Payments.
- Boost capital investment in local authority and Approved Housing Body-led housing construction, particularly for one-bed units and cost-rental housing, with transparent annual targets.
- Increase social and cost rental housing supply, and resource local authorities to support the Tenant in Situ scheme.
- Allocate dedicated funds for early intervention, rent arrears support, legal aid for tenants, and a national homeless prevention strategy.
- Robust plans, including a new national and homelessness housing plan that uses the Housing Commission report as its key driver.

2. HOMELESS SERVICES

FUNDING FOR HOMELESSNESS SERVICES FOCUSING ON ADDICTION, DRUG AND ALCOHOL INTERVENTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH – WITH MORE FOCUS ON HARM-REDUCTION MEASURES

Homelessness is fundamentally unhealthy, and many service users present with complex needs, including issues with physical health, mental health, and addiction. There is a need for a comprehensive review of mental health services, particularly focusing on drug and alcohol interventions and mental health support - with more focus on harm-reduction measures. This includes improving access to treatment programs, understanding the need for stabilisation services like Housing-First, and the need for the development of more specialised accommodations for people with enduring mental health needs.

OUR BUDGET 2025 ASKS:

- Significant increase in health budget particularly related to social inclusion to support homeless people with mental health, physical health, addiction, and homecare needs.
- Increased focus, and funding for Inclusion Health and Social Inclusion programmes.
- Increased budgets made available to hospitals to roll out Inclusion Health models of service.
- Increased budget for harm reduction interventions for people experiencing addiction - such as medically supervised injection centers, and consumption rooms in areas outside of Dublin.
- A focus on funding for the development of specialised services and accommodations for people experiencing homelessness presenting with multiple complex support needs, including any combination of physical health, mental health and addiction issues - single-unit housing solutions are key. Shared accommodation is not the answer for someone with significant mental health concerns.
- More focus on funding for trauma support, including Child Support Workers and therapeutic interventions in particular for children experiencing homelessness.
- Prevention and early intervention: funding to facilitate early intervention programmes in communities, reducing the risk of homelessness for individuals struggling with addiction. This proactive approach can lead to better outcomes and lower long-term costs.
- Access to treatment: Improve access to vital drug and alcohol treatment programs, including detox facilities, rehabilitation services, and ongoing support for recovery among those experiencing homelessness.
- Stabilisation and support: understand the need for stabilisation services, such as Housing-First initiatives, that provide secure housing alongside addiction support, which can significantly improve recovery rates.

3. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

INCREASE FUNDING AND PROVIDE MORE SOLUTIONS TO THE CRITICAL SITUATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND DIRECT PROVISION

Urgent political attention is required to address the thousands of people stuck in Direct Provision with permission to remain in Ireland. As of June 2025, some 32,725 people including more than 9,500 children are in IPAS - the vast majority in emergency accommodation.

Many people seeking international protection in Ireland live in Direct Provision centres, often in cramped conditions with limited privacy and there seems to be no clear solution in sight.

It is critical that there is a focus on this group in Budget 2025.

OUR BUDGET 2025 ASKS:

- A fundamental cross departmental review of how housing will be delivered for people with permission to remain in Ireland with an increase in funding towards adequate services and housing for those in IP and the establishment of a tenancy sustainment service for those who have moved on from DP to support the prevention of homelessness.
- A strategy and Increase in funding towards adequate housing for those in IP and the establishment of a tenancy sustainment service for those who have moved on from the DP system to support the prevention of homelessness.
- A recognition that tented accommodation is not an adequate response and funding to find a solution to the use of this type of accommodation.
- Increase in budget for state departments to train and educate local authority staff engaging with those coming through the IP system in particular in relation to understanding permissions, rights and stamps and entitlements.
- Increase in funding to upgrade existing emergency accommodations to meet minimum standards, and increase capacity to prevent rough sleeping and unsafe conditions.
- Funding to establish a pilot shared-tenancy scheme funded by state sources for single people with permission to remain in Ireland.
- Identify and plan for those who have permission to remain and who are assessed as vulnerable in the DP system. To seek specific funding through state sources to develop housing for this group.

4. STAFF FUNDING

PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STAFF IN THE VOLUNTARY AND SOCIAL SECTOR

A critical issue is the need for an immediate increase in funding for staff pay and conditions in the voluntary and social sector and a link to any future public service pay awards. Resolving pay disparities for Section 10, 56 and 39 organisations is urgent to attract and retain skilled professionals, as many organisations have services at risk of closure due to a lack of staff.

In order to attract and retain talent, we must have the ability to offer competitive salaries to help attract skilled professionals and reduce turnover. High staff turnover can disrupt services and negatively impact those relying on support.

OUR BUDGET 2025 ASKS:

- The inclusion of all statutory funding streams that support the provision of essential services on behalf of the state.
- Adherence to the recent WRC national pay agreement regarding section 10, 39, 56 - Depaul is asking for implementation, adequate funding and resourcing - while also taking into account future alignment with public pay sector agreements.
- WRC agreement 9.25% - agreed on behalf of frontline staff. Depaul would like to see an efficient mechanism for implementing and rolling this out for this and future rounds.
- Implementation of the agreement in the WRC in terms of pay parity for the voluntary and community sector with an automatic link to the Public service award process.

5. FULL COST OF SERVICE DELIVERY

AGREEMENT AROUND FULL COST OF SERVICE DELIVERY FOR HOMELESS ORGANISATIONS

The homelessness sector requires adequate and sustainable annual funding that reflects the real full cost of service delivery in the ever changing climate we find ourselves in.

Funding needs to meet the ever evolving needs of the significant crisis we find ourselves in. This crisis – that has come about as a result of the chronic undersupply of housing in the market, the unprecedented levels of homelessness, and the persistent issue of the need for the provision of appropriate and quality accommodation for vulnerable groups such as those in IP and DP.

OUR BUDGET 2025 ASKS:

- As part of the WRC process provide multi-annual funding to the homeless sector that reflects the full cost of service delivery.
- CCMA Section 10 review recommendations - to be funded and fully implemented with the HSE fully reviewing its funding role of homeless services.
- Funding that allows for inflation and the increasing need placed on services as the homelessness crisis continues to escalate with demands increasing on services daily.
- Recognition that once the process of engagement with the CCMA is completed around what full cost recovery comprises - increased funding will be needed for the additional recommendations to ensure organisations are adequately funded.



A VOICE FOR CHANGE

**WORKING WITH VULNERABLE AND
COMPLEX INDIVIDUALS MEANS TAKING
ACTION TO TRANSFORM LIVES.**

**WE MUST CONTINUE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT
ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS REQUIRES MORE
THAN TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS. WE KNOW THE
STATE CAN DO MORE TO REACH THOSE MOST IN
NEED.**

**AS AN ORGANISATION, WE ARE ADVOCATING
FOR MORE FOCUS ON KEY AREAS SUCH AS
HOUSING, HEALTH - INCLUDING MENTAL,
PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL
PROTECTION.**

**PRIORITISE THE INDIVIDUALS, CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES OF IRELAND WHO ARE EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEXT BUDGET.**

The logo for DEPAUL is set against a bright orange rectangular background that has a slightly distressed, torn-paper edge. The word "DEPAUL" is written in a large, white, hand-drawn style font. Below the name, there is a thin white horizontal line.

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**WE PUT OUR WORDS INTO
ACTION.**

GET IN TOUCH

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